

ROADMAP
TO
BETHLEHEM

CHRISTMAS EVE
SERVICE OF CAROLS AND CANDLELIGHT
DECEMBER 24, 2016
7:00 P.M.



St. Luke's
United Methodist Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

(†Those who are able, please stand in honor of God.)

PRELUDE

arr. Dan Forrest

The First Noel
Christmas Eve Orchestra
Robert Fasol, *organist*
Eric Bradford, *conductor*

RINGING OF THE BELLS

†THE CAROL

ADESTE FIDELES

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem. Come, and behold Him, born the King of Angels; O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; Sing all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest; O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Wendy Lambert

In the dark of a winter evening, in the stillness of our soul,

God comes calling.

From a reassuring whisper to a heavenly choir,

God cries out for us.

We are called to draw ever closer

to the manger in Bethlehem.

We are invited to experience

Emmanuel - God with us.

All along the journey, the Christ Child reminds us

of the everlasting love of God.

(All sing) Yea, Lord we greet Thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to Thee be all glory given. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

THE LESSON

Rev. Jeremy Sanders

Matthew 1:18 - 25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

THE CAROL (seated)

VENI EMMANUEL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

THE LESSON

Luke 2:1 - 7

Rev. David Poteet

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

THE CAROL (seated)

ST. LOUIS

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

THE LESSON

Rev. Wendy Lambert

Luke 2:8 - 14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

THE CAROL (seated)

GLORIA

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

†THE LESSON

Rev. Phil Greenwald

Luke 2:15 - 20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

arr. David Hamilton

Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven
St. Luke's Chancel Choir and Orchestra
Jamie Buxton, *soloist*
Robert Fasol, *piano*
Eric Bradford, *conductor*

Jesus, joy of the highest heaven, born as a little baby, under a wondrous star. Like us, crying, He takes His first breath, held by His mother, helpless, close to her beating heart. Jesus, laid in a lowly manger, facing a world of danger, come to turn me, a stranger, into a child of God.

Jesus, King of the highest heaven, learning to take His first steps, that He might bring us life. Like us, knowing our smiles and sorrows, He showed the way to follow; the way that is true and right. Jesus, take away every darkness, steady my simple footsteps, that I might, in Your goodness, live as a child of God.

Oh, Jesus, laid in a lowly manger, facing a world of danger, come to turn me, a stranger, into a child of God. Steady my simple footsteps, that I might, in Your goodness, live as a child of God.

LIFE AT ST. LUKE'S

Rev. Phil Greenwald

MISSION MOMENT

DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Dr. Robert E. Long

OFFERTORY

arr. Bradley Knight

Sing We Now of Christmas
Christmas Eve Orchestra
Robert Fasol, *organist*
Eric Bradford, *conductor*

MESSAGE

Dr. Robert E. Long

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Adolphe Adam

O Holy Night
Renee Anderson and Jamie Buxton, *vocalists*
Christmas Eve Orchestra
Robert Fasol, *piano*
Eric Bradford, *conductor*

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'til He appeared and the soul felt it's worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices, O night divine! O night when Christ was born, O night divine! O night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another, His law is love and His gospel is peace. Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother and in His name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise His holy name. Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we. His power and glory evermore proclaim, His power and glory evermore proclaim!

†THE CAROL

STILLE NACHT

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and Child. Holy Infant so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia! Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wond'rous star, lend thy light, with the angels let us sing, alleluia to our King. Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

(We will sing *Silent Night* three times. Ushers will begin leading the congregation out of the Sanctuary during the second time through.)

Childcare is available in the nursery for children and infants. There is a live video feed in the Watchorn Chapel located next to the Sanctuary.

The chapel is available for use if your children need a break and you wish to keep participating in the service.



LEADING IN WORSHIP

Dr. Robert E. Long
Senior Pastor

Rev. Wendy Lambert
Senior Executive Pastor

Rev. Jeremy Sanders
Pastor of Program Ministries

Rev. Phil Greenwald
Executive Pastor of Administration

Rev. David Poteet
Pastor of Congregational Care

Musicians

Robert Fasol, Organist/Choirmaster
Christmas Eve Choir and Orchestra
Eric Bradford, Conductor
Renee Anderson, Vocalist
Jamie Buxton, Vocalist



Join Us for Worship

If this is your first time at St. Luke's, we would like to invite you to join us for Sunday Morning Worship.



Traditional

Traditional Services are at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m. in the Sanctuary



LifeLight

LifeLight Contemporary Service is at 9:40 in the Christian Life Center

Christmas Offering



Each year the St. Luke's family of faith joins together in a special, second-mile offering. 100% of the funds raised will be used to bless the lives of others beyond the walls of our church. This year's Christmas Offering will support more than 50 different missions, but a special emphasis this year is on Mobile Meals, Russia Churches, Fields and Futures, and Mission Rancho Village and Sequoyah Middle School. These programs are making a difference in our community, in our nation and throughout the world. Donations for the Christmas Offering can be made during the service or by contacting the Finance Department.



St. Luke's

United Methodist Church

Dr. Robert E. Long

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Senior Executive Pastor

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Rev. Jeremy Sanders

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Rev. Phil Greenwald

Executive Pastor of Administration

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Rev. Andrew Haynes

Pastor of Campus Operations

dhaynes@stlukesokc.org

Rev. Josh Attaway

Edmond Campus Pastor

jattaway@stlukesokc.org

Congregational Care Ministry

The St. Luke's family of faith desires to extend care to you in the times of concern and joy and all that is in-between. Please write your prayer concerns on an attendance card during Sunday services or email to ccm@stlukesokc.org. You may also call 232-1371 with your prayers concerns.

Faith Partners

Faith Partners seeks to educate, refer and walk with people along their journey towards recovery from addiction. If you or someone you love struggles with addiction and would like help, please go online to faithpartners.stlukesokc.org or email to ccm@stlukesokc.org.

Radio Programming

Listen to "Something to Think About" with Dr. Bob Long between 7:30 a.m. and 8 a.m. on following radio stations: 98.1 The Sports Animal and Magic 104.1. The sermon can be heard on KREF AM 1400 at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday morning.

TV Programming

St. Luke's Traditional service can be seen as a half-hour television program on KOCO channel 5 at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday morning. CDs are available in Threefold or contact Bev Barnes at 232-1371. We will be glad to mail a copy of the service to you. Cost is \$5 for a CD or \$10 for a DVD.

Online Worship Service

If you are unable to attend worship on any Sunday, you can join us online for the 10:50 a.m. Traditional Worship Service broadcast live from the Downtown Campus. You can watch on your computer, smartphone, or tablet. Simply look for the "Online Worship" link on the stlukesokc.org website. A link is also available on the St. Luke's App.

Welcome to Our Newest Members Joining in November:

Downtown: Ashley Conklin, Russal Brawley, Lindsey and K.W. Cryer, Meredith and Bobby Wegener, Carolyn and George McKoy, Shelby Love and Michael Reece, and Megan and Brian Stacy

Edmond: Linda and Jim Sanders, Lori Stevens, Loriann Cook, Kathy and Clay Van Meter, Jayne and Matt Lusty, Kaila Ratliff, Bridget White, Sharon McElroy, Katie and Elliot Wright

222 N.W. 15th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73103 Phone: (405) 232-1371

Web Site: stlukesokc.org E-mail: Info@stlukesokc.org

Welcome

As Senior Pastor of St. Luke's, I would like to personally welcome you to our Christmas services.

Our mission is to share God's love and bring hope to the world. I hope you will take the time to explore the many opportunities at St. Luke's to share Christ, grow in faith, and serve the community.

You can learn more about all of these opportunities at the Connection Points, Welcome Centers, or by visiting the website at stlukesokc.org.



It is important for each one of us to have a place to connect with God and others – to be reminded that our lives have meaning and purpose and that we are loved.

There are several ways to worship with St. Luke's. We offer three services at the Downtown Campus on Sunday mornings. Traditional services are held in the Sanctuary and begin at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. The contemporary service, LifeLight, begins at 9:40 a.m. in the Christian Life Center. If you are unable to attend, you can watch the 10:50 service live online through the website and app.

You can also worship at our Edmond Campus every Sunday at 9:15 and 11 a.m. The campus is located at 900 N. Sooner Road and the sermon is broadcast from the Downtown Campus each Sunday morning.

You can also find St. Luke's on Channel 5 (KOCO-ABC) Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. (one-week delay).

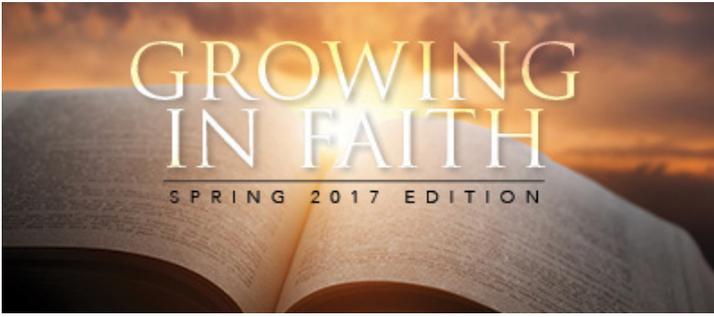
I invite you to listen weekday mornings to my "Something to Think About" radio spots on a number of local radio stations between 7:30 and 8 a.m. These spots are designed to bring a word of encouragement to our community.

Thank you for making St. Luke's part of your Christmas celebration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Long". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bob Long
Senior Pastor



Wednesday Night Alive

The spring session of Wednesday Night Alive (WNA) offers classes for children, youth, and adults and runs from January 18 through March 29. Dinner is served at 5:15 p.m. (\$5 for adults - children 12 and under are free) Classes start at 6:30 p.m. WNA is a great opportunity for the entire family to grow in their faith. Class descriptions will be available Sunday, January 1 at the Welcome Center and online at stlukesokc.org.



Online Worship

If you are unable to attend worship any Sunday, you can join us online for the 10:50 a.m. Traditional Worship Service that is broadcast live from the Downtown Campus. You can watch on your computer, smartphone, or tablet. Simply look for the "Online Worship" link at the top of the website: stlukesokc.org. A link is also available on the St. Luke's App.



Sunday School

Any Sunday morning, just follow the scent of fresh coffee and the sound of laughter to the small groups that meet around the church. More than 30 adult Sunday School classes meet at 8:30, 9:40, and 10:50 a.m. The groups vary by age, stage of life, and emphasis of study. Each class provides a caring environment for fellowship, learning, prayer, and support. Children's Sunday School is also available all morning. More information is available at the Welcome Centers.



Winter Youth Week

It may be cold, but the efforts of our Youth to serve the community are heating up in 2017! All, 6th-12th grade, students are invited to be a part of Winter Youth Week. There will be meaningful service projects and fun events for Youth every day, January 13-16. Serving the community and having fun - all in the same day. The cost is \$20 for each day, or \$50 for the entire week.



Year of Gratitude

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Year of Gratitude

Gratitude opens our hearts and minds to seeing God's work in our lives and in the world. A life of gratitude is a better way to live. Telling someone "thank you" makes a difference in their lives and our own. When we intentionally express our gratitude, we become more aware of what we have and who is in our lives - and we help make others aware of their value.

In 2017, we are setting a goal of writing one thank-you note per day. Living a life of gratitude happens by the choices we make on a daily basis. 365 thank-you's, a Year of Gratitude, can bring about joy and meaning. We invite you to be a part of our 2017 Year of Gratitude at St. Luke's.



Text to Give to the Christmas Offering

Simply text the word
"#Christmas" to
(405) 252-9393
it's simple and secure.